

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) A signal input and output apparatus for issuing a control signal from a signal processor to the outside by a controller one of a plurality of controllers through a transmission path, and controlling said signal processor by said controller one of said plurality of controllers on the basis of a control signal entered from the outside, comprising:

a single transmission path along which a plurality of different types of apparatuses are can be connected, each of said different types of apparatuses issuing a different type of control signal substantially simultaneously and receiving control signals from a corresponding one of said plurality of controllers; and

signal discrimination changeover means for discriminating the type of control signal entered through the single transmission path corresponding to one of said different types of apparatuses, generating a discrimination signal, supplying said discrimination signal into said controller the signal processor controller, and selecting one of said plurality of controllers corresponding to said discriminated control signal to control changing over the control operation of said signal processor to said controller the signal processor controller on the basis of the discrimination signal, wherein

input and output of plural control signals of different types are processed through said single transmission path, said single transmission path supporting two-way communication of said plural control signals.

~~2. (Previously Amended) The signal input and output apparatus of claim 1,~~

wherein

the plural control signals each have different input and output levels.

~~3. (Previously Amended) The signal input and output apparatus of claim 1,~~

wherein

discrimination of the type of control signals in said signal discrimination
changeover means is carried out on the basis of a level of the control signal at a coupling to said
signal discrimination changeover means of the transmission path for an input and output of
control signals.

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~~4. (Original) The signal input and output apparatus of claim 1, wherein
said signal discrimination changeover means changes over the control system of
the control signal of a type other than the one discriminated according to the discrimination
signal so as to be inactive.~~

~~5. (Original) The signal input and output apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
one of said plural control signals is an RS-232C signal.~~

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6. (Currently Amended) A signal input and output method, being a signal input and output method for issuing a control signal from a signal processor to the outside by a controller one of a plurality of controllers through a transmission path, and controlling said signal processor by said controller one of a plurality of controllers on the basis of a control signal entered from the outside, comprising the steps of:

..... providing a single transmission path along which a plurality of different types of apparatuses are can be connected, each of said different types of apparatuses issuing a different type of control signal substantially simultaneously and receiving control signals from a corresponding one of said plurality of controllers,

discriminating the type of control signal entered through the single transmission path corresponding to one of said different types of apparatuses,

supplying a discrimination signal in accordance with said discriminated type of control signal into said controller the signal processor controller,

selecting one of said plurality of controllers corresponding to said discriminated control signal to control changing over the control operation of said signal processor to said controller the signal processor controller on the basis of the discrimination signal, and

inputting and outputting of plural control signals of different types and processing these control signals through the single transmission path, said single transmission path supporting two-way communication of said plural control signals.

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(Previously Amended) The signal input and output method of claim 6, wherein:
the plural control signals each have different input and output levels.

8. (Previously Amended) The signal input and output method of claim 6, wherein:
discrimination of the type of control signals at said signal discrimination step is
carried out on the basis of a level of the control signal at a coupling to said signal discriminating
means of the transmission path for input and output of control signals.

Claim 8 is crossed out.

9. (Original) The signal input and output method of claim 6, further comprising:
a step of changing over the control system of the control signal of other type than
the one discriminated according to the discrimination signal so as to be inactive.

10. (Original) The signal input and output method of claim 6, wherein:
one of said plural control signals is an RS-232C signal.